

MUSTANG DAILY

California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo

Volume 55, No. 10

Wednesday, October 3, 1990

Nuclear waste worries SLO

Policy allows harmful trash to be dumped

By Grant Landy
Staff Writer

Only a few steps into the '90s, and the decade of environmental consciousness and energy alternatives has already separated the public and private spheres into two camps — those who generate energy and must get rid of its waste, and those who use the energy and want its waste disposed of safely.

An example of this is a new policy approved in June by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Called Below Regulatory Concerns (BRC), it will allow about 30 percent of the nation's "low-level" radioactive waste to be treated as normal garbage.

Possibly, trash companies could be picking up radioactive

wastes and discarding them into dumpsites.

"The policy has been around since the Atomic Energy Act of 1954," said Mothers For Peace representative Laurie McDermott. "But now it's being developed and only awaits an application before being enacted."

Low-level wastes are not the primary wastes discarded straight from fueling the reactor, said UCLA engineering professor Bill Kastenberg.

"Low-level wastes are just little contaminations found primarily on clothing," said Kastenberg. "It's mainly the stuff that falls on the coats and gloves of maintenance workers."

Concern in San Luis Obispo County would focus mainly on the nuclear facility at Diablo Canyon, located in the Irish Hills north of Avila Beach and on utility companies like Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E).

It was Kastenberg's

understanding, however, that the policy is optional, and that the utilities were not going to follow it, mainly because of concerns over their public image.

But he said the economic incentive may be so great that money may soon outway image.

"It is much cheaper to rid wastes in trash than in other ways, such as hauling it to burial sites," he said.

Diablo Canyon spokesman Brad Thomas said that PG&E has no intention of using the BRC rule.

"We here at PG&E and Diablo Canyon have chosen not to use it," said Thomas. "We probably will never do it."

What worries environmental groups like Mothers For Peace and representative McDermott is that the companies could utilize the BRC rule without notifying the public.

See NRC, page 6

Poly interviews first director candidate

By Dan Shargel
Staff Writer

The first of six candidates for the position of director of affirmative action was at Cal Poly earlier this week to meet campus officials and speak at an open forum.

Marion Boenheim, assistant to the executive vice chancellor and director of affirmative action at the University of Mississippi, was here Monday and Tuesday for interviews and meetings with Cal Poly President Warren Baker, his staff, the Consultative Committee and the Equal Opportunity Advisory Council, as well as the Monday afternoon open forum with faculty, staff and students.

At the open forum Boenheim, who has been director of affirmative action at Mississippi since 1988, said an affirmative action program she implemented there was the waiving of tuition fees for minority students in order to get more racial integration.

"(It was) nothing real outland-

ish," she said. "We just made the commitment that it (minority integration) would be done."

Through her efforts, Boenheim said the number of minority faculty members at the University of Mississippi has risen from five to 27.

Since there are 400 faculty members at that university, Boenheim said that figure was "not wonderful but was certainly an increase."

She said the various strategies used to hire more minority faculty were not new or different.

"It was simply the task of making a commitment and then working forward by looking at places where we can find additional people," said Boenheim.

One of the strategies used was searching for graduate students "which we thought had real potential and sent them off to other institutions to get degrees.

We then had them make commitments to come back to be with us for a couple years (as faculty members)," she said.

See DIRECTOR, page 4

Bike riders urged to use locks

Police also favor registration for easier retrieval

By William Douglass
Staff Writer

Bicycle theft continues to plague the campus, said Cal Poly Police Officer Joe Baranek. Last year more than 100 bikes were stolen on campus.

According to the San Luis Obispo Police Department, an additional 191 bicycles were reported stolen within city limits in the same period, for a loss of more than \$66,000. The Crime Prevention Department classifies most of these thefts "crimes of opportunity" because the bikes were not locked.

"To my knowledge," Baranek said, "no bike on campus has been stolen when it was locked up properly with a U-bolt." He said chain locks can be broken with bolt cutters.

Baranek said the best way to recover a stolen bike is to have it registered before it is stolen. Cal Poly requires all dormitory residents to register bicycles with Public Safety. There is no charge for registration. Officers take the bike's description and serial

number, they and issue it a license number.

If the bicycle is reported stolen, the serial and license numbers are entered in a nationwide computer, said Baranek. Officers can run a computer check on a bike during traffic stops, and if it comes up as stolen the bike is recovered. Residents of the city are re-

quired by law to register their bicycles at the finance department of city hall, said Margory Donati, billing officer for the city.

The charge is \$2 per year, and the bicycles are registered for a three-year period. Donati said that students who have bikes registered in their hometowns or at Cal Poly are not required to

See BIKES, page 4

Theft of bicycles, parts are up, SLO police say

By Kelly Hagerty
Staff Writer

A recent statistic has sent a warning to bicycle owners that theft in San Luis Obispo is a reality.

Last week the San Luis Obispo Police Department reported that in a three-day period \$2,000 worth of bikes were stolen. According to Crime Prevention Coordinator Steve Seybold, that number is not unusually high.

In 1989, \$100,000 in bikes and bike parts were stolen in San Luis Obispo. Of that, \$40,000 of the thefts occurred on Cal Poly's

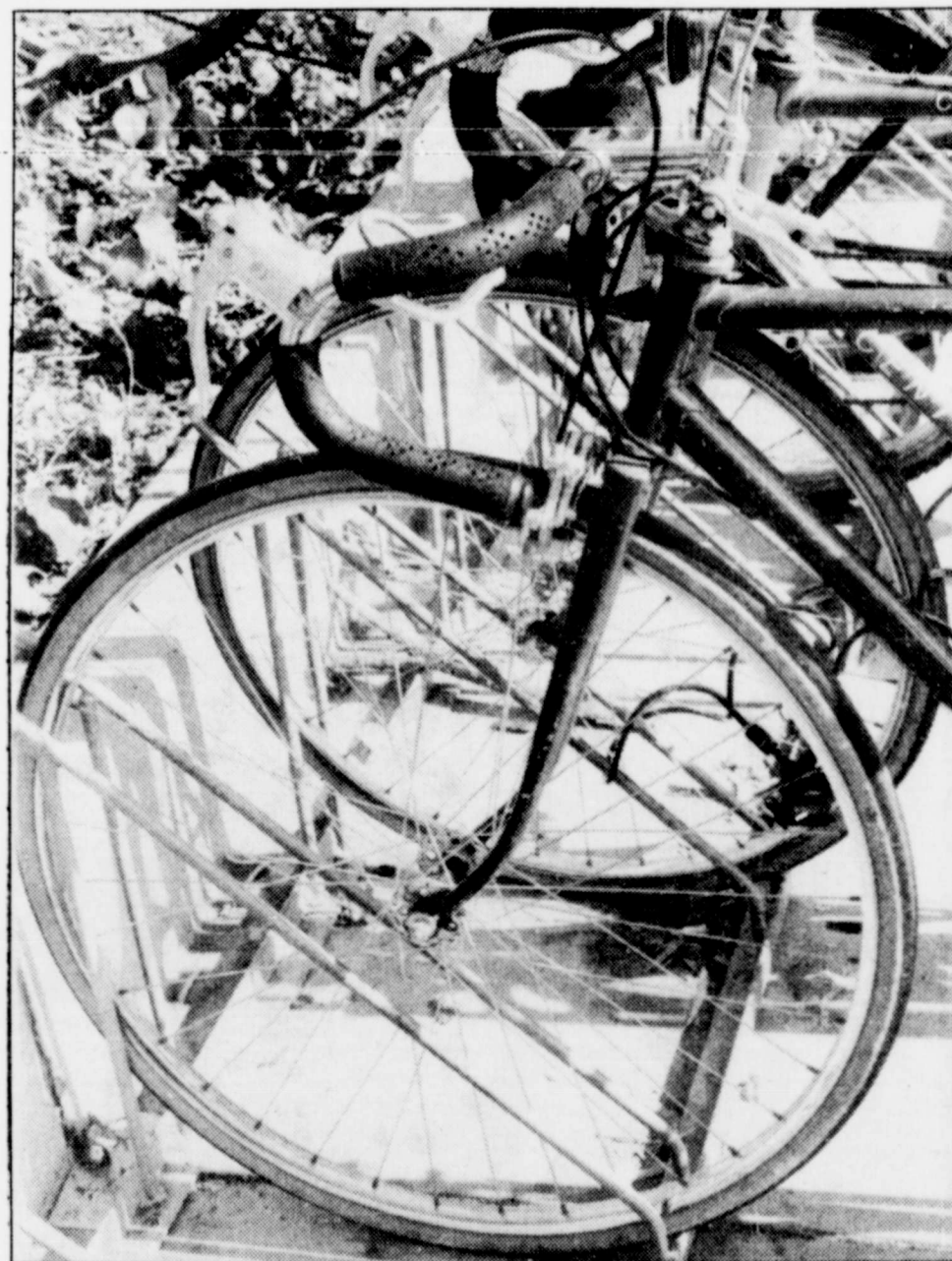
campus. Numbers like these make Cal Poly Public Safety Officer Mike Kennedy concerned.

"The key is to make people aware (of the problem)," Kennedy said last week.

Two incidents have been reported to Public Safety since WOW, and he expects the numbers to match last year's.

Unfortunately, Kennedy said, no matter how many precautions are taken to protect a bike, it can be stolen if a thief is determined enough. He recalled an incident in the residence halls where a student locked her bike as

See THEFT, page 7



PAT MCKEAN/Mustang Daily

Most bikes are stolen because they are not locked properly. The police suggest bicycle registration to help recover stolen bikes.

ASI Highlights:

Board of Directors' meeting tonight at 7 p.m. in U.U. 220. The meeting is open to the public. Discussion items include 1989-90 ASI and University Union audits.



Insight ...

Find out how students confront daily challenges with the help of Disabled Student Services.

Page 5



Today's weather ...

Patchy morning fog and mostly sunny in the afternoon.

High: 89 degrees
Low: 47 degrees

N.W. winds up to 20 mph

Opinion

Second Opinion

City residents need new bikeway system

San Luis Obispo is desperately in need of an improved bikeway system. The City Council has expressed concern over this issue but little has been done so far. Yet, they still insist that city residents, especially the students, should use bikes for transportation and leave their smog-producing cars at home.

Most of the byways of this city are simply not safe for bikes.

The dangerous intersection of California Boulevard and Foothill Street, through which many student bicycle commuters must pass, was obviously not designed to accommodate bikes. Councilmember Bill Roalman has called this intersection, "a disaster area for bikes."

The answer to this problem lies in establishing a bikeway system throughout the city.

The ideal path would be along the Southern Pacific Railroad property which extends through town. A bikeway on this property would create a nearly straight trail connecting the campus area to the south end of town, thus making biking to Cal Poly a much more attractive alternative to driving.

The college towns of Palo Alto and Davis already have built extensive bikeway systems.

Palo Alto has a "Bicycle Boulevard" — a two-mile stretch leading from a residential area to the downtown on which no automobile traffic is permitted, and even the cross traffic is required to yield to bicyclists.

Nearly one-third of Davis streets have bike lanes, in addition to about 20 miles of separate bike paths. It is estimated that nearly 25 percent of all around-town trips in Davis are made by bicycle.

During the last elections, Roalman was vocally in favor of improving the city's bikeways and called on the city to buy the Southern Pacific property.

As an environmentalist who uses his bicycle as his primary mode of transportation, he should be leading the way in developing a bikeway system that could rival that of Palo Alto and Davis.

Councilmember Peg Pinard also has urged Poly students to bike rather than drive to campus.

The City Council needs to give people more and safer bikeways if we are to be expected to leave our cars at home and opt for the environmentally cleaner form of transportation.

An Editorial excerpted from Mustang Daily, April 6, 1990.

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Letters to the editor should be no longer than 200 words. They should include the author's name, address, phone number and major title. Submit letters to Room 226 of the Graphic Arts building. They may be edited for length, clarity or factual content. Contact the Opinion editor at 756-1143 if you wish to write a guest column.

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Mustang Daily is published Monday through Friday during Fall, Winter and Spring quarters by

the Journalism Department. Unsigned editorials represent the majority view of the Editorial

Board. Advertising is solely for informational purposes and does not represent an endorsement

by the publisher or university. Mustang Daily offices are located in Room 226 of the Graphic Arts

Building, Cal Poly University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407.

Telephone: (805) 756-1143

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Editorial



Power plants should not treat toxic waste as normal garbage

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission passed a new policy in June which has been in a stage of existence since the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 but is just now being further developed.

This new policy is called the Below Regulatory Concerns (BRC).

The BRC will allow approximately 30 percent of the nation's "low-level" radioactive waste to be treated as normal garbage.

Trash companies now will be able to pick up radioactive waste on daily garbage rounds under the BRC rule. Radioactive waste will be treated as normal garbage.

Low-level waste is defined as the little forms of contamination found primarily on the clothing, coats and gloves worn by maintenance workers taking care of the reactors.

The primary reason for the BRC policy is economics.

It is simply economically wiser for nuclear facilities to dispose of low-level waste in the least costly way possible. Throwing out waste with the morning's trash is far cheaper than packaging and hauling that same waste to a dumping and burial site.

Many nuclear power plants are concerned about public image under the BRC rule.

Realistically, though, it is hard to believe how the temptation of substantial economic savings would not at some point override the concern for a positive public image.

It is disturbing that, as with many other business decisions, the economic gain possibly could be enough of a positive incentive to encourage such a lax and

careless disposal of low-level waste.

This new policy should be a large concern to the residents of San Luis Obispo because of the close proximity of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant.

Diablo Canyon says that it has no intentions of working under this new disposal option.

The BRC policy is not mandatory. It is simply an alternative presented to nuclear plants.

This simple alternative, however, could create complex problems.

Technically, power plants do not have to tell the public if they are using the BRC policy. They may tell the public that they are not dumping toxic waste as normal trash and may, in fact, be doing so.

According to Cal Poly natural resource management professor Doug Piirto, there is a good chance that this new policy, among other problems, could create some degree of water contamination.

The implementation of such a policy could put at risk the safety of our drinking water, the health of those picking up the plant's disposal and the overall health of the community. It is impossible to understand the ramifications of such a policy 10 or 20 years down the road.

It is understood that there is an economic factor in everything that is produced. It is also understood that new and more productive means to economically dispose of toxic waste must be created to maintain an affordable price for electricity.

However, the minute that economics become a higher

priority than the value and well-being of local residents is when the balance between the dollar and progress must be examined.

Some may say it's a crime that we are allowed to dispose of aluminum cans, which should be recycled, and plastic foam containers, which should not even be produced. But the real crime comes in allowing Congress to tell nuclear facilities that they have the right to toss out their low-level waste along with their used lunch bags and office supplies.

There must be a concern for the citizens who are now going to be exposed to the nuclear waste. Not only will this waste be accessible to the average citizen, but it could be potentially threatening to the number of individuals who are employed by the sanitation industry.

The economic gain of such a policy is far less substantial than the possible danger to a human life.

As citizens of San Luis Obispo, it is our responsibility to act as "watch-dogs" for such a policy.

Because it is no longer a requirement for nuclear power plants to watch out for the well-being of citizens, the responsibility now must belong to the people.

Industrial progress is to the advantage of everybody and should be, therefore, the responsibility of everybody. However, if the government and companies running the power plants have the economics and intelligence to create and work with nuclear power, then it only makes sense that they should utilize that same economics and intelligence to dispose of their waste safely.

World

East Germany spends final day as a nation

BERLIN (AP) — East Germany spent a melancholy last day as a nation Tuesday before passing into history, leaving behind 40 years of communism and one brief, dizzy fling as a free country.

Bureaucrats emptied their desks and clasped hands in farewell, the first freely chosen Parliament held a wistful last meeting, and the chief government spokesman said he was looking for work.

The museum devoted to the former nation's history laid off some workers and began closing departments. West Germany shut its embassy in a country now part of its own.

East Germany's once-sacred Communist flag, a red, gold and black banner emblazoned with a hammer and drafting compass, was spread on sidewalks and sold as souvenirs.

Lawyers and bureaucrats, once among the powerful elite, stood in the last unemployment lines of an autonomous East Germany.

East Germany would have been 41 years old on Sunday, but instead acceded to West Germany and transformed itself into just another one of five states of the mighty Federal Republic of Germany, or West Germany.

Phones rang at government offices Tuesday, but there was nobody home.

"I hope for a new chance in the new Germany. I'm deeply moved by what has happened here," said Franz Jahnsnowsky, a top Foreign Ministry official.

Jahnsnowsky, who spoke in the ministry parking lot, was the former chief of diplomatic protocol for ousted Communist boss Erich Honecker.

See WORLD, page 6

Nation

Study links alcohol to death before age 65

NEW YORK (AP) — Men who habitually drank at least two alcoholic drinks a day were nearly twice as likely than abstainers to die before age 65, and the difference for women was three-fold, a study found.

Even people who drank at lower levels than such "heavier" drinkers showed higher death rates than abstainers.

The study was based on a national sample of people who died in 1986.

For women, 40.7 percent of so-called heavier drinkers died before age 65 versus 13.2 percent of abstainers. For men, the figures were 42.3 percent versus 22.4 percent.

The numbers cannot be interpreted as indicating risks of early death because of the way the study was done, cautioned study co-author Darryl Bertolucci.

The study began with people who already were dead, and worked backward in time to classify them on their drinking habits, rather than starting with people of known habits and following them to find their risk of early death.

Spud called lifesaver for hungry population

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists say the humble potato may offer the world a second chance to support a population that is outracing its capacity to feed itself.

The first chance was the "Green Revolution" See NATION, page 6

State

DMV computer goof surprises car owners

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Thousands of California car owners couldn't believe the bills they were getting from the Department of Motor Vehicles — and they were right.

At least 100,000 vehicle owners were overcharged or undercharged hundreds of thousands of dollars in license fees when a DMV computer went amok last week.

Julie Castro was shocked when she opened her car registration bill, expecting to pay about \$130 to license her 1987 Hyundai. Instead, the bill was for \$1,344.

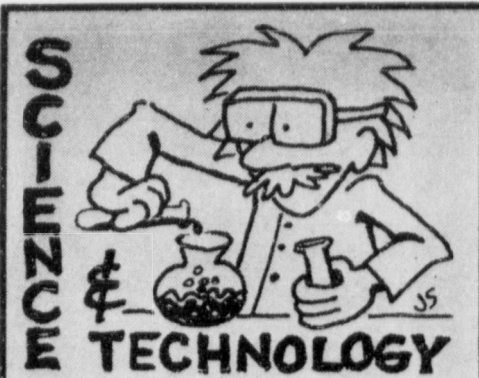
Car owners whose registrations expire Nov. 16, 18 or 20 have been receiving the bills for the past several days; some have been asked to pay up to \$6,000 to register their vehicles.

The computer came up with the wild numbers after it mixed up the years and makes of cars. Newer, more valuable cars are supposed to cost more to license, but the goof sent owners of late model Porsches bills for \$16, while owners of old Volkswagen beetles were dinged for \$1,500.

Exterminator bugged by portrayal in movie

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Orkin Exterminating Co. is bugged over the product placement deal it made with the nation's No. 1 box-office movie this week: "Pacific Heights."

In the breach of contract suit, filed Friday See STATE, page 6



Aviation club 'takes off' again after long break

An airplane is scheduled to land Thursday in the University Union (U.U.) plaza.

Well, it won't actually be landing in the U.U. The plane will be towed in by the Mustang Aviation Club for the activity hour festivities.

The plane is a way to announce the reinstatement of the Mustang Aviation Club at Cal Poly.

The club was chartered in 1947. At that time, the club owned active planes which were used for instruction and rental to its members.

The charter was revoked in 1966 because of university regulations on student air travel. It was later reinstated for a brief time as a strictly social club.

The social club is now being reinstated by two Cal Poly students who are also licensed pilots.

Al Lipper, a computer-based education graduate student, and Jon Cardozo, a computer science junior, have See SCIENCE, page 6

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Poly prof. takes post in tropics

Adviser to aid college farming in Costa Rica

By Mara Wildfeuer
Staff Writer

A professor from the agricultural education department has been named chief adviser to the Agricultural College of the Humid Tropic Regions in Costa Rica.

Robert Flores was appointed chief of party by the Dean of the School of Agriculture, Lark P. Carter, the U.S. Agency for International Development (US AID) and the university.

Flores succeeds Larry Rathbun who completed a two-year assignment as chief of party in August. Rathbun returned to Cal Poly in September.

Flores' duties will significantly differ from Rathbun's because Rathbun was involved with the development of the school, and Flores will work with curriculum and students. The school began its first term of instruction last March with 60 students from eight Latin American countries.

Flores said his position as chief of party means that he will be involved with anything to do with the school farm.

"I'll be in charge of instilling a hands-on approach and an

educational philosophy," Flores said last week before he left for Costa Rica.

Cal Poly's involvement with the Agricultural College of the Humid Tropic Regions began in 1985 when the university received a 10-year contract as the lead support university for the Costa Rican college's development. The University of Nebraska is the other main support university in the project.

Joseph Sabol, associate dean of the School of Agriculture, said Cal Poly's main goal is to act as consultants, modifying the "learn by doing" approach to agriculture to the humid tropics.

"Cal Poly cannot expect to go to Costa Rica and tell the people how they should farm," Sabol said. "We can, however, make suggestions."

Costa Rica has the highest amount of deforestation in proportion to land mass in Central America, Sabol said. "One of the goals of the school is to develop an ecological integrity and to preserve the wildlife while improving agriculture," Sabol said.

Flores' involvement with the project is accidental. Last fall he expressed interest in going to Costa Rica as a support instructor. "I received a 'thanks but no thanks' and thought that was the end of it," Flores said. Last May, Flores was contacted to

apply for the position as chief of party. A trip to Costa Rica this summer finalized the idea.

Flores' contract lasts one year, but the assignment is for two years. He looks at the assignment as an adventure that includes his wife and seven-year-old son. "I used to speak Spanish as a kid, but I've lost it all," Flores said. "I hope to gain it back plus my son will learn another language."

Former chief of party Larry Rathbun has an idea of what Flores and his family will experience. During his two-year stay in Costa Rica, Rathbun's wife and three daughters lived in the capital city, San Jose, while he lived at the campus during the week. The college is an hour and a half away, Rathbun said.

Coincidentally, Flores is a former student of Rathbun's. "I was surprised Bob was interested in the Costa Rica project," Rathbun said. "I was not surprised he was chosen though."

After returning to the United States in 1992, Flores plans on returning to Cal Poly and using his experience to continue teaching in the agricultural education department.

"I hope that after this experience, I will be better informed about global agriculture," Flores said.

BIKES

From page 1
re-register with the city.

Baranek said because of the number of bicycles on campus, it would be an unrealistic task for police to actively search for stolen bikes. "It's like if a Walkman is stolen," he said. "We are not going to pull over everyone with a Walkman."

There are two types of bicycle thefts on campus, Baranek said. Inexpensive, unlocked bikes are stolen as pranks or for quick transportation. Expensive bikes are stolen for parts or their

value.

Baranek said theft of a bicycle valued at \$400 or less is petty theft, a misdemeanor. Stealing a bike worth more than \$400 is grand theft, a felony.

There is a low incidence of bike theft arrests on campus, Baranek said, because stolen bikes are usually taken off campus. "There is no place to stash a stolen bike in the dorms," he said.

Baranek said the complaint by some students that there are too few bike racks is unfounded. "The racks are just not conve-

niently right in front of the classroom," he said. Even though the bike racks were removed from the inner campus last year, they were placed elsewhere and additional racks were added.

Baranek said part of the problem of bike theft at Cal Poly is because of the student's perception that San Luis Obispo is crime-free. The opposite is true, he said. "There are a lot of thefts here because there are a lot of things to steal."

DIRECTOR

From page 1

Boenheim said she had "no magic wand and offered no magic solutions" when working with affirmative action but said "everybody has to come together to work on them."

Present at the forum were approximately 20 staff and faculty members as well as ASI Chairman of the Board Mark Denholm and the Consultative Committee's student representative, John Grice.

The Consultative Committee, said Susan Bethel, operations analyst for Personnel and Employee Relations, is made up of faculty, staff and students, and it is intended to be representative of the entire university.

After all the selected applicants have been interviewed, the committee will make its recommendation to Baker, who will make the final decision in choosing a new director.

Denholm said he will attend the open forums for each of the candidates.

"We (Denholm and ASI President Adam Taylor) feel that minority representation on this campus is lacking," said Denholm. "We're real interested in affirmative action."

Bethel said that whoever fills the position will have an important significance to the future of Cal Poly.

"All faculty and staff appointments will have to be cleared through the Affirmative Action Director," Bethel said.

She said the office of Affirmative Action points Cal Poly "in the direction necessary to follow all the federal and state regulations regarding affirmative action and implements the policy which has been established."

That policy, Bethel said, "has a

lot to do with fair employment practices," and "establishing goals to ensure that the faculty and staff represent the make-up of the community and the state."

She said the position probably will be filled by winter quarter.

Other candidates that are scheduled for interviews are: Sandra Holbrook, director of equal opportunity and academic personnel services at North Dakota State University; Anna J. McDonald, personnel management specialist at Fresno State; Karen A. Alvarado, director of affirmative action for the City of Portland; Jorge C. Aguiniga, Student Academic Services advisor for the School of Liberal Arts, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; and Antonio Garcia, regional director of Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement at the University of California at Berkeley.

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Rick Best is one of many disabled students at Cal Poly who has overcome his physical limitations.

Insight

Rick Best travels along his 'path of least resistance'

Rick Best does more than 'sit around.' Although he has been cruising around in his wheelchair as long as most of us have been walking, nothing has stopped Best from working hard to achieve his dreams.

Best is in his fourth year at Cal Poly as a civil engineering major. He often faces obstacles that are unfamiliar to most students. Best is proving that he is more than capable of meeting any challenges that come his way.

Best is only one of many disabled students at Cal Poly who has successfully adapted to his disability and is enjoying a rich and active college life.

"I don't really think about being disabled," Best said. "I do the best that I can within my personal limitations. But that's all anyone can do."

Best was injured at birth when his arm became stuck behind his head. The doctor had to pull Best's arm down and in the process bruised his spine. Best is now 'T2' paralyzed, just below the arms and down to the toes.

"It's just one of those things," Best said. "There's nothing I can do about it now. I have to focus on the here and now, not what could have been."

In addition to a full load of classes this quarter, Best is the secretary of Disabled Students Unlimited (DSU). DSU is a club formed by a variety of disabled students at Cal Poly whose main purpose is to promote awareness of disabilities on campus. In addition, Best is the chairperson of the Campus Recycling Coalition.

Best seems to enjoy keeping busy. "I used to tutor Cal Poly students for 10 hours a

week last year," Best said. "Although I found it very rewarding, sometimes it was disappointing when they didn't get the grade I wanted them to."

Best also places a lot of importance on education. He is no foreigner to academic success and has worked very hard to maintain his 3.75 grade point average at Cal Poly. He received college scholarship money based upon his high school performance and entered Cal Poly as a 17-year-old freshman. Best plans to get a philosophy minor in addition to his engineering degree to further round out his education.

Best is originally from Thousand Oaks and is looking forward to returning home for Christmas to see his parents and four older brothers who are scattered all over the state.

Best attributes most of his positive outlook on life and his success in school to his parents. Both were college graduates and always have encouraged their sons to pursue an education. All of his brothers have gone to college and two of them are now in graduate school.

"I was never treated any differently from any of my brothers," Best said. "Of course I've had a lot of physical problems, but they (my parents) have never expected any less of me."

"It was tough going my first two years at Cal Poly. In addition to the normal adjustments any freshman has to make, there was the added stress of my financial situation," he said.

Best has bills of more than \$300 each month for medical services and supplies. This year he receives Medi-Cal stickers, which

See BEST, page 8

Disabled And Undaunted

Disabled Student Services makes learning possible

Disabled Students Services' (DSS) growth has exploded more than 100 percent within the last two years, assisting even more disabled students at Cal Poly by giving them the opportunity to receive the best education possible.

"Disabled Student Services' main purpose is to help the disabled students at Cal Poly become as independent as possible," said Beth Currier, assistant coordinator for DSS. "We want to help disabled students with their difficulties so that they can receive an equal education to the student who is not disabled."

In fall of 1987, DSS reached out to 286 students on campus. There are now more than 600 students receiving their services. It had to move its office last year to accommodate its growing needs for space, privacy for counseling.

DSS sprouted quickly after the public law 94-142 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 was implemented. The non-discrimination statute and the regulations issued under it guarantees a right of entrance for students with disabilities into our nation's colleges and universities, their mainstreaming into the classrooms, as well as their participation in the university setting as a whole according to Lynn M. Smith, author of "The College Student with a Disability: A Faculty Handbook."

Disabled students fall under one of two categories: temporarily or permanently disabled. The temporarily disabled is a student who only needs DSS's services for a short period of time. They include, for example, students who sprain their ankles and have limited mobility or students with broken wrists and unable to write. DSS can step in to transport students around campus or assign students notetakers.



SIMON SMITH/Mustang Daily

Disabled Student Services provides a tram to help disabled students reach their classes on time.

Permanently disabled, on the other hand, are students who need the ongoing assistance of DSS throughout their education at Cal Poly. There are five categories of permanently disabled students. Those with learning disabilities make up 50 percent of the permanently disabled. These students are usually dyslexic or have problems with reading,

writing or perceiving number groups. Those students that travel by the aid of a dog, wheelchair or other assistive devices are considered mobility disabled.

The functionally disabled are students with hidden disabilities. This category encompasses stu

See DSS, page 8

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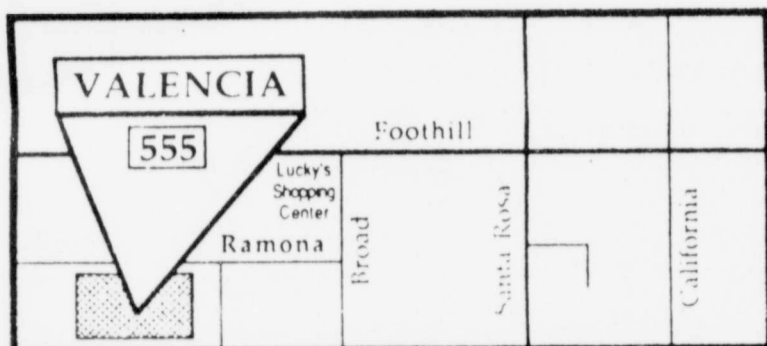
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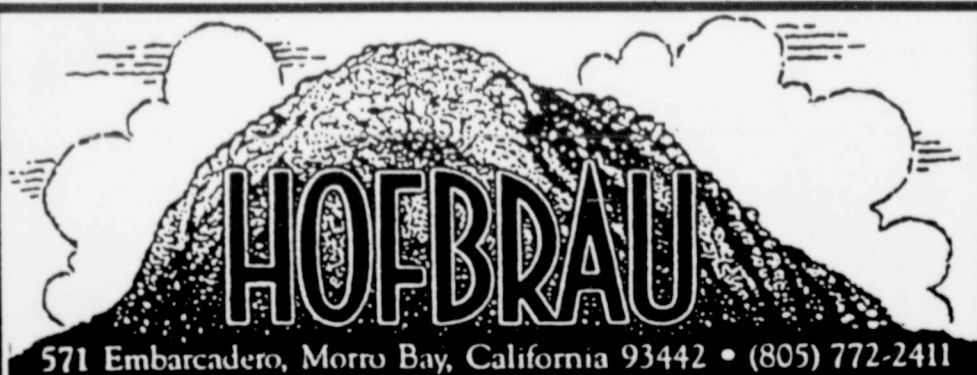


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WORLD

From page 3

He said he is not optimistic about a role in the new German government.

About 220,000 government workers nationwide automatically went into employment limbo. They will receive about 70 percent of their pay while West German officials decide how many to keep.

"I know I'm out of work," admitted chief East German government spokesman Matthias Gehler.

NATION

From page 3

tion," which started in the 1960s and kept millions alive by developing high-yield strains of rice, corn and wheat, but never fully lived up to its promise.

At a conference here Monday and Tuesday on "Feeding the Global Village," the potato was held up as a potential lifesaver for the half of the world that is hungry. It was called a "power food," packed with protein and vitamin C, potassium, iron and magnesium.

STATE

From page 3

in Superior Court, Orkin said it agreed to pay \$20,000 in a deal to portray the company in a favorable light.

But "Pacific Heights" represented Orkin as "unwilling or unable to perform competent extermination services," the suit said. The contract specified the company would be shown in a "non-disparaging" manner.

The suit also said promised changes in the script to protect Orkin's reputation were not made.

NRC

From page 1

"Technically, they wouldn't have to tell the public," said McDermott. "They could be using the landfills for wastes but tell us something different. You must be careful with semantics of what is being said in press relations."

Cal Poly Natural Resource Management professor Doug Piirto said that any radioactive wastes in dumpsites could cause

environmental safety problems.

"The problem is that the landfills are not sealed," said Piirto. "There is a good chance of some degree of water contamination and other problems."

McDermott said that economics is the primary reason for the policy being developed. Utility companies also could be creating their own landfills, she said.

Piirto believes that economics

have to take a second-stance to the consequences of radioactive wastes on human society.

"It doesn't seem appropriate that low-level radioactive materials of any kind should be

disposed in our landfills," said Piirto.

"If they have the economics to deal with nuclear power, they should have the economics to safely get rid of its wastes."

SCIENCE

From page 3

many activities planned for this year.

The club will organize excursions to Air Force bases, air traffic radar control installations, air shows and aviation symposiums.

The organizers of the club expect to maintain a reference library of aviation publications, including books, periodicals and videotapes.

The Mustang Aviation Club

also will offer seminars and speeches presented by representatives from the fields of aviation and aerospace.

Faculty adviser for the aviation club is Daniel Biezad, an aeronautical engineering professor.

The Mustang Aviation Club is open to pilots, aeronautical engineering majors or anyone with an interest in the

aeronautical field.

The club will hold its first meeting Monday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Graphic Arts building, Room 104. For more details, call Lipper or Cardozo at 544-4636.

Information for today's column was provided by the Mustang Aviation Club.

Ring Sale

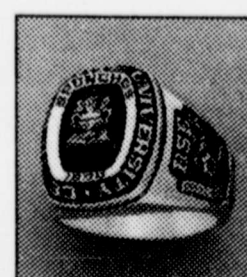
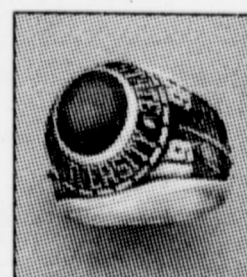
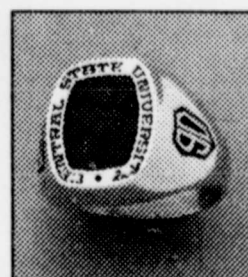
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THEFT

From page 1

securely as possible to the bike rack. The thieves simply cut the bike rack and took the entire ensemble with them.

Kennedy said most bike thefts occur at night, although quite a few have been reported in the day. He said they can happen anywhere, right out in front of the library in broad daylight or in the privacy of the residence halls. Most bikes are usually locked, but the locks can be easily bypassed.

Seybold suggested a few options one might take to safeguard their investments. First, he said, one should engrave their driver's license on the bottom of the frame. Then, the bike should be registered with the city or university. The City of San Luis Obispo charges \$2 for this. Cal Poly registers bikes free of charge.

By taking certain precautions, Seybold said, owners will more likely recover a stolen bike. Without proper proof, the original owner cannot get his bike back. Many times, he said, the bikes are not claimed by the owners and end up sitting in a warehouse. Recovered bikes can sit for as many as six months until they are auctioned off.

"Each year 400 to 500 bikes are sold at the auction because people can't prove they're theirs," Seybold said.

He also said that people caught with the stolen bikes have no rights, regardless of whether they knew it was stolen or not. He said that they could be charged with possession of stolen merchandise and will automatically lose the bike.

Bike thieves operate in a few ways. Seybold said they are either part of a ring based out of other areas, or they are local thieves who don't steal in quantity. The rings usually operate from larger cities and they steal quickly and in bulk. Local thieves don't steal quite as often or in such numbers.

Both types of thieves, however, steal entire bikes or just bike parts, whatever is easier, Seybold said. He said they both mix and match parts and usually strip them before

selling and bikes are almost never sold near where they were stolen.

Mountain bikes are the current target, and Kennedy said the best way to avoid being a victim is to take extra care when leaving bikes unattended. He suggested locking bikes with a U-bolt type lock and purchasing a lock with a warranty and a theft protection guarantee. Removable wheels should be detached and locked with the bike, and removable seats should not be left on the bike.

Seybold suggested not leaving bikes outside, or hanging them to the ceiling with hooks.

"Bike theft is a significant problem," he said. But registering the bike and reporting the theft immediately is the best way to control the problem.

T

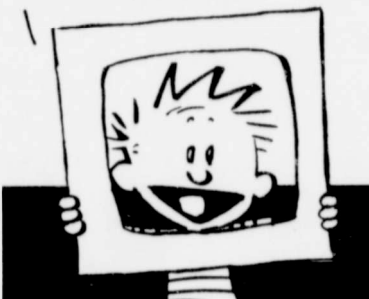
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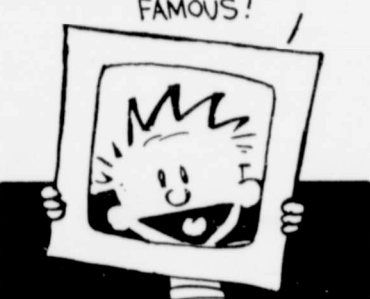
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DSS

From page 5

dents with diabetes, cancer, asthma or AIDS. The visually disabled are blind or have severe visual difficulties. The last group contains students that have communication problems. These students are frequently deaf or hearing impaired.

Many supportive services are offered to the disabled student. Tutors, readers, interpreters, test proctors and notetakers can be secured and assistance can be provided in locating attendants. Other supportive services include the loan of special adaptive equipment such as tape recorders, talking calculators, computer terminals, wheelchairs and phonic ears. Study aids, including a print enlarger, a braille, an elevating wheelchair and a variable speed tape recorder are available in the Learning Resources and Curriculum Department of the library.

"A disabled student does not have to feel alone," Currier said. "We provide extensive advise-ment services in combination with all of our other support services."

In addition to these personal services, Cal Poly is completely equipped to service the disabled students on campus. Cal Poly has been a leader among California State University campuses in the removal of architectural barriers and has spent more than \$1 million on this on-going project. There are elevators in all of the two-story buildings with the exception of a couple of laboratories. When necessary these labs are moved to accessible locations. Ramps, larger restrooms and curb cuts were installed to accommodate students

with mobility difficulties. Accessible drinking fountains and telephones are available campus-wide as well as transportation and special parking privileges. Cal Poly is working hard to eliminate all barriers campus-wide.

A disabled student also may be eligible for pre-registration if certain buildings are more ac-



cessible or more time is needed to travel between classes.

A student must fill out some initial forms and provide medical verification of their disability in order to receive assistance from DSS. Free testing for all learning disabilities also is available to students.

The goal of DSS for the future is to reach all of the disabled students on campus and address their specific needs, Currier said. Many students with difficulties are not receiving the attention they need and their grades may be a direct reflection of that.

"There are three main influences that determine how a student copes with his or her disability. The parents' support or lack of it, peer acceptance or rejection and the individual's own personality," Currier said. "These three formulate the student's self-esteem and attitude toward success with a disability. And this often determines whether a disabled student will seek us out or not."

"The students at Cal Poly are fantastic. Often they are a little hesitant about speaking to or helping a disabled student, but it is only because they don't want to offend them. Use your best judgement," Currier said. "The best idea is to go ahead and ask the disabled student if you think he or she needs help. If the student does not want help, he or she will let you know, but otherwise it's a great way to help out."

Beth Currier has been assisting DSS for nearly 13 years and has seen tremendous growth since its humble beginning under the direction of Harriet Clendenen. At that time Clendenen had only one desk, a couple of boxes and about 30 disabled students. Clendenen is still coordinating DSS.

One of the best ways to help the disabled students at Cal Poly is by becoming aware of their presence on campus and their special needs, Currier said. The Disabled Students Unlimited Speaker's Bureau is dedicated to dispelling the common myths about disabled students and presenting accurate information on the abilities and lifestyles of disabled persons. These articulate students speak free of charge to Cal Poly students, community organizations and elementary students.

"Everyone should hear our speakers," Currier said. "They go a long way in helping all of the students at Cal Poly get a better understanding of the disabled. Our growth is proof."

DSS is located in the Julian A. McPhee University Union, room 202 and is open all year round. The phone number is (805) 756-1395.

BEST

From page 5

cover 20 percent of the cost, but Medi-Cal cannot be relied upon to pay these bills promptly, he said. They still have not paid for Best's medical bills from last December through June of this year.

Best underwent major surgery in 1985 to correct his scoliosis, a curvature of the spine. Unfortunately the surgery was not entirely successful, and he has had several additional operations since then, including one that took nearly six and a half hours.

"It would be nice not to have to worry about medical problems. I often get pressure sores from sitting in my chair and sometimes I feel that I am too dependent of medication," Best said.

Best used to be as active in sports as he possibly could before his major surgery.

His brother, Tim, has inspired him to get involved in sports in his own special way. Tim went to Nepal two years ago on a rock climbing expedition and has encouraged his little brother to build his upper arm strength so they can go 'hiking' together.

"It's not by choice (that I'm inactive in sports)," Best said. "I would still be participating if my surgery had gone well. But I have my hands full just trying to get through school, so that's enough for me right now."

Best's eyes lit up when he recalled an earlier experience about learning how to play tennis in high school.

"I went charging to the net in my wheel chair, trying to show off my great backstroke, when I lost control of my chair and ran into the net instead. The net bounced back and I flipped out of my chair. That's what I get for showing off," he said.

Best said the only real advantage to being in a wheelchair is

that you don't have to wait in all of the long lines at Disneyland for the rides. You get to go through the back door, he admits.

Best says that he tries hard not to let the 'minor' inconveniences of his wheelchair prevent him from enjoying the basics of life. Best lives with a friend in a first-floor apartment close to Cal Poly and does his fair share of the household duties.

"Last year I used to 'ride' (in my wheelchair) to school every day and I'd get to campus much quicker than the students who had to drive to campus and find a parking spot. Plus it was cheaper!" said Best. "It was great — I knew the path of least resistance."

“

There's nothing I can do about it now. I have to focus on the here and now.

—Rick Best

”

Best now lives in an apartment off of Grand Avenue and admits that the upward climb toward the residence halls is a killer. He now takes the bus especially equipped to handle wheelchairs.

Best has his car here in San Luis Obispo but only uses it to drive home on weekends and holidays. He has been known to give his roommate a ride around town in exchange for grocery shopping. His car is specially designed to operate entirely by hand.

There are the minor inconveniences to contend with, but Best says that the biggest struggles he's had since he's been at Cal Poly is developing his social skills.

"I'm not very good at small talk," Best said. "In high school I basically came home after classes and was not forced to go out and meet people on a regular basis. At Poly, things are a little different. I'm being stretched socially as well as academically. But, that's what college is all about."

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